

My dear Father, London 15 Dec 1819

My friend George set off half an hour ago (viz 7 o'clock) for Farnbridge. He arrived here yesterday morning. I think I never saw him look in better health - I have desired him to try if even you are not now rather disconcerted at the Provisions of the new Libel Bill. - your letter cannot be published, after that bill passes, but in the meantime it may - Therefore you need not care about it. - But even for circular letters on my behalf, or for charitable purposes, or to canvass for a Plan, are held by the new Act to a Duty of 4^d per cent. - When Bouverie was at Lord Liverpool, Dr Vassall, & Mr. Cattermole, along with the Bookellers Committee, he pulled out of his pocket a letter (printed) which he had just received from one of the Liverpool Traders requesting his assistance to get a poor Person into some (charity); & thus he told his Lordship would be taxable. "Is it so?" said Lord L. to the Attorney General - "Yes:" was the Reply. - The Ministers were totally unaware of the immense number of religious Tracts which are distributed, & stated when the Bookellers stated that Howard

It was (Publishers of the Cheap Repository Tracts) would have
to pay Government no less than 25,000 a year on
what they now sold. How are men so ignorant
on this Head fit to declare whether the Country be
in a generally irreligious state or not? — Then
again as to Libels, Hatched was convicted about
a year ago of a libel on the African Association, to which
he was not party — the fine was 100th. But now he is
equally liable to ~~the same~~ ^{similar} actions without any means of
helping himself, & for the second offence he is to be
transported for 7 years, & should he be found in the
Kingdom before the expiration of that time he is to
be hanged. — The Bookkeepers very truly say that if
this Bill passes, they must give up Business — If
I formerly thought the present men incompetent to
govern the Nation, what must I think now when I
see so well their incapacity on a question when
I am able to judge.

I have no fears of our Ourselves now not being
absolutely clobbered with Mr Parsons. He will not
accept of our poor his agreement. But I cannot
tell what to think of the Friends. If they should
rise, it will be in our favour, but whatever they

fall below $\frac{1}{2}$ will be a loss. - To show the value
some new estimate I will tell you what passed to
day on the Stock Exchange - a Person gave 3000 ^{to} ~~to~~
to receive 1000, 3 ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ this Day 2 years. - A Friend
of mine saw the Transaction - But the Reader was a
Fool in my Opinion: yet it shows what heads feel
some men's heads.

I have finished my life of care, & am now
more at ease, - but I have caught a little cold &
cough, which keeps me within doors & tenses me
up - however it is young: & I sincerely hope
dear Mother is gone - You would receive the letter
on Monday - I am glad to hear Mr Brooks is to
come to Rutford - Remember me to him - I don't mind
like the Heathen King. O yet, if I remember, some of
the 20/ones were very pretty - so I will make it do
for my Park Room -

With kindest love to all I am

My dear Father,

Your most affectionate Son

John Taylor

Mr Taylor
Retford